

Newsletter –September 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter for session 2021-22. The school has been back now for a few weeks now and our pupils have settled in well, as have our new staff. We have recently started a number of extra-curricular clubs and some day trips have been planned. Of course, COVID means that many of the things we would be ordinarily be involved with still remain in abeyance e.g. overnight school trips; engagement in some competitive sports with other schools such the EDC football leagues. Notwithstanding these restrictions and other COVID mitigations such as the continued wearing of face masks for all staff and pupils inside the school building, the school is feeling slightly more like it is getting back to some semblance of normality. The unpredictability of the Delta variant and its highly infectious nature means that we cannot assume that everything is moving in one direction towards full normality as daily news updates are telling us. There will continue to be bumps in the road this session and the level of pupil and staff absence has been higher than would normally be the case over the past three weeks. Hopefully, there will be no further lockdowns and no return to school closures and the instigation of remote learning throughout the rest of the session. We will await developments and prepare for all eventualities.

In this newsletter you will find details of the following:

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New staff

We are delighted to welcome the following new staff to the school:

- **Biology** – Ms Ballard & Ms Shirlaw
- **Business Education** – Mr McCombe & Ms Wilson
- **Design Technology / Computing** – Ms Gaskin (DT) & Mr Afzal (Computing)
- **English** – Ms Kelly, Mr Quinn, Ms Thorp & Ms Roy
- **Health Food Technology** – Ms Heron & Ms Ross
- **Geography** – Ms Gilmour
- **Mathematics** – Ms Ivanova, Mr Truesdale
- **Modern Languages** – Ms Edgar & Mr Said Hedouga
- **Performing Arts** – Ms Buchanan (PT Guidance / Drama), Ms Dvorakova (Music) & Mr Macdonald (Music)
- **Physical Education** – Ms Fountain
- **Physics** – Mr White
- **School Assistant** – Ms Casey
- **EAL** - Jennifer Wallace

All our new staff have settled very well into their departments and are all now starting to get more fully engaged in whole school activities via school committees/working groups, supervision duties and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

SQA Results 2021

As you will be aware the 2021 SQA Results, like those in 2020, were based upon teacher judgements as there were no formal exams. In 2020 the SQA initially used an algorithm to adjust pupil performance once schools had entered their estimates for their pupils. This led to a national outcry and the algorithm was abandoned in favour of teacher judgements. In 2020 there was a significant hike in the pass rate and there was a similar picture in 2021, albeit slightly down on 2020 across National 5, Higher Grade and Advanced Higher Grade. The details are summarised below:

National 5 - Average pass rate across 2017-19 of 77%. This increased to 89% in 2020 and fell slightly to 86% in 2021.

H Grade - Average pass rate across 2017-19 of 76%. This increased to 89% in 2020 before falling back to 87% in 2021

AH Grade – Average pass rate of 80% across 2017-19. This increased to 93% in 2020 before falling back to 90% in 2021.

The improvements in performance in 2020 and 2021 could be due to many things. By way of illustration I provide two examples below that will help contextualise the 2021 results more:

One example to illustrate the point was that schools across the country 'chunked' their assessments more, so instead of sitting a preliminary exam that broadly replicated a full SQA exam, assessments were broken down into smaller sections. This allows pupils to focus and concentrate upon one aspect of a course at a time resulting in more pupils passing and doing so at a more advanced level e.g. the % of A passes was also higher in 2020 and 2021 than the average across previous years.

Another issue that undoubtedly led to a hike in pass rates is related to the fact that in a normal year, schools usually adopt an aspirational approach and give youngsters who are highly likely to fail an opportunity to sit the final exam as a small number of youngsters can and do pull it out of the bag at the last minute. This results in a national picture whereby a significant number of those youngsters

who were given a chance to sit the final exam do not achieve a pass and thus the number of No Awards can be high. This year, pupils knew in advance what their determined grade would be. For many who knew in advance that they would receive a No Award, the pupil and/or parent/carer, in consultation with their school, asked that their child's name be withdrawn from the subject/level e.g. H Grade Mathematics. This results in a higher overall pass rate than in a normal year as the number of No Awards was much reduced due to higher levels of withdrawals so as a percentage of those sitting more achieved a pass.

As a school we issued all parents/carers with full details of the approaches we were using for the determination of grades. This included in-school moderation of teacher judgement across departments and moderation with other school partners across East Dunbartonshire in every subject area. There was also whole school quality assurance procedures in place and ongoing discussions with officers from the council related to our grades in all subject areas.

The Scottish Government uses what they refer to as highline measures when it is looking at school performance across the country. This does not look at the overall pass rate for N5, H Grade and AH grade. Instead it looks at the percentage of pupils in a school who achieve 5+ Awards at N5 in S4; the number who achieve 1+, 3+ and 5+ H Grade Awards in S5 and the number who achieve 1+ AH Grade Awards in S6.

Our highline results for 2021 were as follows:

National 5

- **5+ N5 (A-C) = 71%** on a par with previous years

Higher Grade

- **1+ H Grade (A-C) = 85%** on a par with previous years
- **3+ H Grade (A-C) = 73%** on a par with previous years
- **5+ H Grade (A-C) = 48%** on a par with previous years

Advanced Higher Grade

- **1+ AH Grade = 38%** on a par with previous years

SQA Arrangements 2021-22

As you will be aware the Scottish Government announced in August that SQA exams would take place in 2022, with the important caveat that this would be reviewed in light of the ongoing COVID situation. We must proceed on the assumption that the exams will go ahead as planned. To that end we will have our usual October assessment block for S5-6 and we will have a prelim diet in January for all S4-6 pupils. We will also be utilising the lessons from last session and will be chunking assessments more and engaging in a greater use of continuous assessment. The overall burden of assessment will not be greater for pupils, we will just be doing smaller assessments but more often.

Further details on assessments arrangements will be issued to pupils in due course. These will also be put on the school website under the appropriate year group section.

Parental Engagement

As a school we use a variety of ways to communicate with parents/carers. These include:

1. **Newsletters** – these are detailed but inevitably there will be time delays as these only come out on a monthly basis.
2. **Group Call emails** – these are used for updates/letters from the school or East Dunbartonshire Council. Over the past year or so lots of letters related to COVID arrangements have been issued via this format
3. **Twitter** – this has the benefit of immediacy, though we are limited to a small number of characters so it tends to be photographs and very limited words to provide context.
4. **School website** – this can be valuable though there can be some time delays with this forum.
5. **You Tube Channel** – This is pending and should provide a valuable addition to our communications.

It is always a delicate balance between keeping parents/carers up to date with events within the school but not overwhelming people with huge volumes of information. Our parental engagement team issued a letter and a link to a survey earlier this week to all parents/carers as part of parental engagement strategy to elicit from parents/carers their views on how the school should move forward in terms of its communications with parents/carers and other stakeholders. The link to this survey is outlined here: [Parental Engagement Survey](#)

Contacting school staff

For the benefit of our new S1 parents/carers and indeed any other new parents/carers to the school I want to explain our procedures for contacting school staff. The key contacts will be your child's guidance teacher in the first instance and thereafter your child's year head. To contact them please email our school office at the following email address office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk or telephone on **0141 955 2379**. You should leave your name and contact details and the name of your child and their guidance group. The guidance teacher or year head will get back to you as soon as they can. **We would ask that parents/carers do not turn up at the school expecting to be seen by school staff.** It is highly likely that they can't be seen at that time for various reasons – your child's guidance teacher or year head may be absent from school; they may be teaching their class or they may be engaged in meetings either within school or out of school. Details of school staff to contact are outlined below as a reminder for you:

Guidance Teachers

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| • Fleming classes: | FL1 Ms Connon | FL2 Mrs McClure |
| • Inglis classes: | IG1 Mrs McNab | IG2 Ms Buchanan |
| • Mackintosh classes: | MT1 Mrs Rae | MT2 Mrs Sutherland |
| • McKay classes: | MK1 Mr Curran | MK2 Ms Carr |

Heads of Year

- S1 Mr Farquhar
- S2 Mrs Clyne
- S3 Ms Robertson
- S4 Ms Sinclair
- S5 Ms Munro
- S6 Mrs Elliott

Flu vaccinations

You will already have received a parental consent form in relation to the flu vaccination programme for winter 2021. If you have yet to return this form please do so as soon as possible to the lower office. The dates allocated to our school are on **15 and 16 November** when all pupils and staff should receive their flu vaccination. It will be via a spray that goes up the nostril rather than a jab in the arm.

School of Rugby

RUGBY IS BACK - The School of Rugby has bounced back strongly following the disruption brought by Covid and the expectation is that we will be fielding five boys' teams and three girls' teams this season. Our Rugby Coordinator, Mr Gemmill, continues to lead the rugby programme, providing a pathway for our pupils to develop their talent in the game and the new **4G** pitch is the ideal environment for this to happen. Friendly matches have already started in preparation for our participation in the West Schools' Conference and there have been some impressive early performances. It is particularly pleasing to see lots of new S1 pupils being introduced to the sport for the first time and showing great progress on the training field.



Our coaching teams now include six graduates from the School of Rugby Taskforce, who developed their coaching skills during their time at school and now lead training sessions. They are supported by a further 15 senior pupils that are volunteering their time as part of our current Taskforce. It is great to see these young people playing their part in further developing a system that they have come through. It is also pleasing to see so many former pupils representing Lenzie Rugby Club's senior sides on Saturday



Departmental news

Across the school, subject departments are engaged in a wide variety of activities at some point in the session. We will provide details as and when appropriate but not all departments will have updates every month. The key issues to be aware of from a departmental perspective across August and into early September are outlined below:

English

- We will be applying for accreditation as a 'School of Reading' this year. More details to follow in future newsletters.
- Through some additional staffing, we have managed to reduce class sizes across the BGE and Senior Phase. This will enable more individual and small group support.
- We will be engaging in a programme of 'reciprocal reading' with those pupils our S2 and S3 classes that have challenges with reading. Parents/carers can also get actively involved in this process and further details will be issued in due course.

Mathematics

- Through some additional staffing, we have managed to ensure that there are smaller classes across the BGE and Senior Phase. This should be of great benefit to our pupils, especially those who are struggling with aspects of their course.
- We have managed to invest in new resources including new texts for the National 5 and Higher Grade courses. In addition, we have invested in a registration for MathWorkout.com. We would encourage all pupils, especially our S1 pupils to make use of this excellent resource. The login details are: **Username: Lenzie Password: factor46**
- Maths Week Scotland is running from 27 September – 3 October, with its theme this year highlighting the importance of Maths to everyday life. As a department, we will be running various events and activities across the week. Keep an eye on Twitter for more details.



Geography

- Our Advanced Higher Grade pupils spent Monday 5 September engaged in fieldwork in the Campsie Fells for their studies. This is the first time in 18 months that we have managed to get pupils out of the school to engage in proper field studies and they all enjoyed the experience and will benefit from it. The class recently undertook field work to measure the Nineteentimes Burn as part of their course work. The weather on the day helped make it a memorable occasion, with rain and low cloud soaking everyone. The class worked hard to complete their measurements and improve their understanding of river processes and data collection for their Geographical Study portfolio work. They also developed a deeper understanding of the challenges involved in undertaking field work in Scottish weather.



Performing Arts

- Our new drama teacher Ms Buchanan has started an S1 Drama club and this has proved to be very popular with our pupils.
- In Music we have started up all our extra-curricular clubs.

 <p><u>TUESDAY</u> <u>Dramarama</u> S1 (max of 20) 1.30pm in A21</p> 	<p><u>TUESDAY</u> <u>Upper Strings Group</u>  S1-6 1.30pm in D9</p>
<div>  <p><u>TUESDAY</u> Wind Band S1-6 3.30-4.30pm in Diner</p>  </div>	
<p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Junior Choir S1-3  1.30pm in D9</p>	<p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Senior Choir S4-6  1.30pm in D7</p>
<div>  <p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Cello Group S1-6 2.40-3.30pm in D7</p>  </div>	
<p><u>THURSDAY</u> <u>Band Club</u>  S1-2  1.30pm in D7</p>	<p><u>THURSDAY</u> Jazz Band  S1-6  3.30-4.30pm in Diner</p>
<div>  <p><u>FRIDAY</u> Saxophone Trio S1-6 1.30pm in D7</p>  </div>	

Science

- Our S1 Science Club is now up and running with in excess of 50 pupils putting their names down to attend.

PE

- Our extra-curricular sports clubs are now up and running

LENZIE ACADEMY SPORTS CLUBS 2021

MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL

BADMINTON—ALL YEARS

(Ms Archibald)

CHEERLEADING—ALL YEARS

(Miss Fountain)

HOCKEY—ALL YEARS

(Miss Shearer/Miss Gaskin)

FITNESS AREA - SENIOR PUPILS

RUGBY

S1 BOYS AND GIRLS - 3.30pm

U16 + U18 - 5pm

S2 + U15—7pm

TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

S1-S3 NETBALL

(Miss Marshall)

GYMNASTICS—ALL YEARS

(Mrs Rae)

RUNNING CLUB - ALL YEARS AND LEVELS

(Miss Gilmour)

S1 /2 FOOTBALL

(Mr McNeil/Mr Truesdale)

S1-3 BASKETBALL (Mr Imrie)

FITNESS AREA - SENIOR PUPILS



WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

BASKETBALL—ALL YEARS (Mr Imrie)

VOLLEYBALL—ALL YEARS (Mr McEwan)

TRAMPOLINING - ALL YEARS

(Miss Marshall)

GIRL'S FOOTBALL—ALL YEARS

(Mr McNeil)

TABLE TENNIS—ALL YEARS (Mr Imrie)

FITNESS AREA - SENIOR PUPILS

RUGBY

S2 + U15 - 4.30pm

S1+ GIRLS - 6pm

U16 + U18 - 7.30pm

THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

S4-S6 NETBALL (Miss Marshall)

DANCE—ALL YEARS

(Miss McComb/Miss Shirlaw)

S3 FOOTBALL (Mr McGinlay/ Mr McDowell)

FITNESS AREA - SENIOR PUPILS

FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL

S1-S3 DANCE (Senior pupil—Ella)

FITNESS AREA - SENIOR PUPILS

LUNCH TIME

FITNESS AREA—SENIOR PUPILS (MON-FRI)

BASKETBALL—ALL YEARS (MON, TUE, THU, FRI)

NETBALL—ALL YEARS—WED

Business Education

The department runs our S1 Games Club every Friday at lunchtime and approximately 20 of our S1 pupils attend the club every week.

The S1 Games Club started on Friday 27 August and has been really well attended by the S1 pupils. We usually play a mixture of board games and computer games but due to COVID restrictions, we have had to focus on computer games only for the time being.

Each week the pupils can choose which games they would like to play, and they also take part in a group Kahoot quiz on a topic of their choice. It has been a great way for the pupils to interact and develop new friendships at the start of term. Mrs Canning and Mr McCombe run the club every Friday lunchtime in D10 in the Business department, and all S1 pupils are welcome to come along.



Pupil Achievements and successes

1. PE

UK Schools Athletics

I went to the UK school games at the beginning of September to represent Scotland in the triple jump at Loughborough University. I met so many new people from the UK and enjoyed the social aspect as well as the competition environment. All teams stayed on the uni campus and the facilities were amazing. I achieved 4th place in the triple jump and the 4 x 100m relay. I am looking forward to the SIAB at the end of this month. – Holly (S6)



2. Ramsey Meek

Ramsay Meek, one of our pupils, recently engaged with officials from Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board to ask them to reflect on their current procedures and introduce a change to their procedures for the benefit of patients like him. It would also have the added benefit of being financially cheaper for the NHS. Through his excellent research and well-reasoned, diplomatic discourse Ramsay managed to get the health board to reflect, investigate and then change their procedures. The Chief Operating Officer for Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board said in a reply to Ramsay ***“...the concerns that you have raised have been investigated by the Hospital Paediatric & Neo-Natal Services and ... NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board has agreed through the Acute Senior Management Team that all children up to the age of 16 should receive the CGM device”.***

This is a truly excellent example of a young person using their knowledge to help influence a service that has led to many other young people being allowed to access a device that was hitherto unavailable to them. This is a remarkable achievement by Ramsay and we commend him for his actions in helping others and saving the NHS money too. This type of action is the embodiment of many of the government’s key drivers under Curriculum for Excellence. It is self-evident that Ramsay has shown that he is a **‘confident individual’** who has displayed **‘responsible citizenship’** whilst being an **‘effective contributor’** to wider society. The fourth major aim of Curriculum for Excellence is being a **‘successful learner’** and Ramsay has demonstrated this trait in spades throughout his time with us. Well done Ramsay!

3. #generationchange at Lenzie Academy



During the last two years, third year Lenzie Academy pupils have continued to participate in The Wood Foundation's Youth Philanthropy initiative. Last year the winning team secured £4000 for Social Bite a well-known Scottish charity working with the homeless in cities across the country. This year the restrictions on visiting charities did not prevent teams from engaging with small and local grassroots charities as their representatives took part in an online charity speed date, recording a 3 minute video on what they do in our local community and how the £3000 on offer from The Wood Foundation would help them achieve their goals.

At the end of August, with certain restrictions now lifted, this year's winning team of 5 pupils were invited to the official launch of the new community hub at Glasgow Number One Baby and Family Support Service (GN1BFSS). This resource, less than 8 miles away from Lenzie, provides practical support to the many residents of the area who live daily in working poverty. Founded by Audrey Dempsey, originally in her spare time from her garage, this charity works as a community resource bank to provide people in need with the clothes and equipment needed in a person centred confidential way. Donations are accepted and sorted to meet the specific needs of individuals who are referred to the support service without judgement or preference. The £3000 won by the Ypi group has been allocated to the Christmas support packs given to families who require them and consisting of a winter jacket and 5 different types of toys for each child.



The pupils were specifically thanked for their contribution to GN1BFSS at the launch of their new community hub. This is a converted bus, upcycled from the scrappage scheme when diesel-consuming buses were replaced by eco-friendly versions. Through the hard work of volunteers, it has been transformed into a community hub to assist with the growing need for mental and emotional support that accompanies the physical needs of those in working poverty. The pupils were interested to discover that one of the new paid staff appointed to work in the hub was himself an ex Lenzie pupil!

The pupils are now in S4 but are hoping to continue to highlight the work of their chosen charity and create new ways of encouraging pupils and their families to volunteer with them, as they undertake their SQA Leadership Award. The strong link established between the school and the charity is one example of how young people are being recognised by the Ypi Scotland hashtag #generationchange



School Holidays

Please note that there was an error on East Dunbartonshire school holiday calendar regarding the Christmas and New Year break. School will close on Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 2.30pm and return on Wednesday 5 January 2022 at 8.45am.

You can view the full school holiday dates on their website using the following link
<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/school-holidays>

PTA

The PTA is a friendly, informal group that create ways to raise money for additional resources for Lenzie Academy curricular and extra-curricular activities.

There are many ways you can help the PTA of Lenzie Academy; volunteer and come along to our meetings (currently held virtually).

The PTA have arranged for S4 – S6 Study Guide books from Leckie Scotland to be available to purchase at a reduced price and the school will benefit too. See school website news for more information or the PTA website
<https://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> deadline for orders **Friday 17 September**.

You could purchase a face covering, they are black, organic cotton, 3 layers and washable with “Lenzie Academy” printed on all masks, they are available from the upper office for a suggested donation of £1 per mask and funds collected go back to the PTA

The 500 Club is a monthly draw for £2 and two lucky winners each receive 15% of the proceeds with the PTA retaining 70% to benefit the school.



Raise funds for free every time you shop online at
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lenzieacademy/>

Keep up to date with all things PTA on their website at www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk or

Email: lenzieacademypta@gmail.com if you have any further queries

School Library Ebook Collection

The library now has a new free ebook service for all pupils to enjoy. This service will allow pupils to read books on their mobile, tablet or computer.

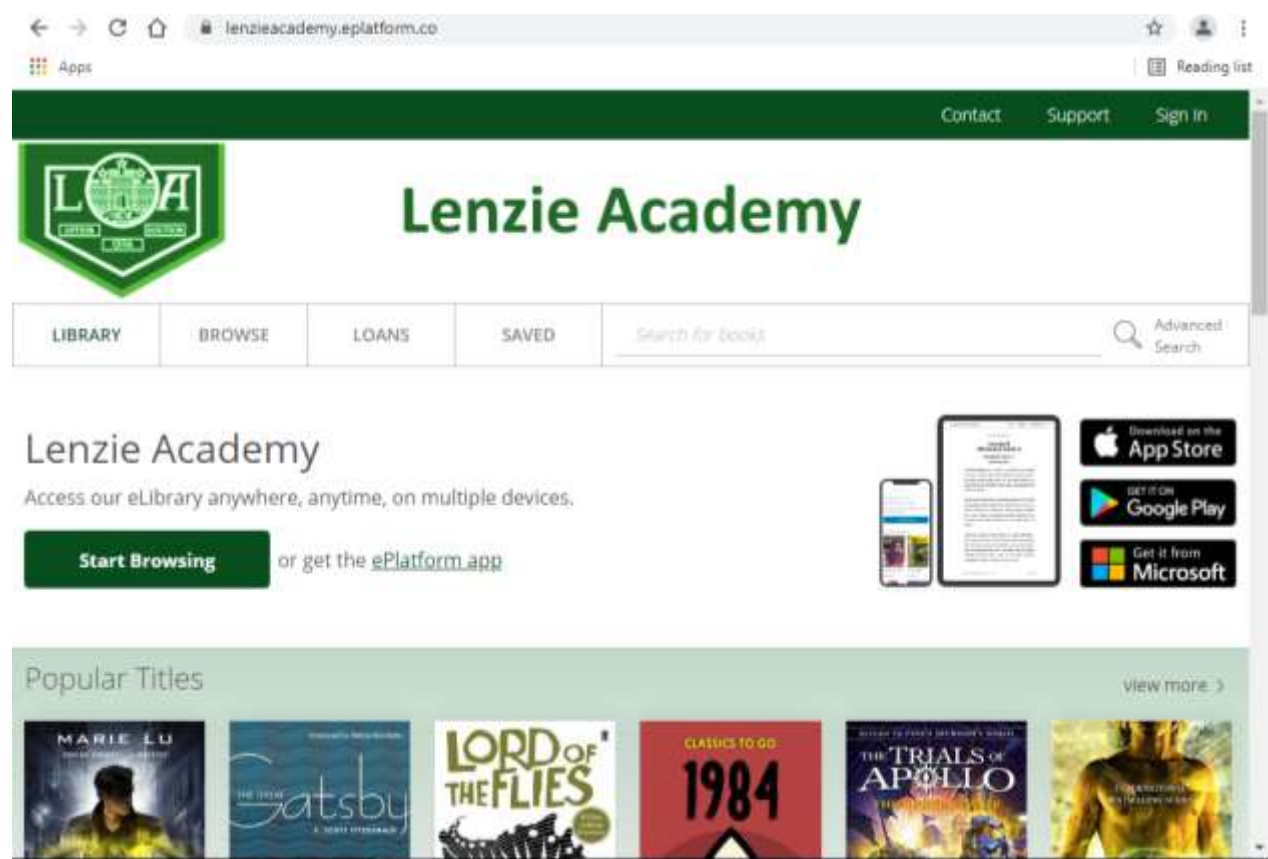
To access the ebook service you will need to use your Username and Password, which have been emailed to pupils. If a pupil has not received their ebook email, please just visit the library and talk to Mrs Barry.

You can read books on a computer by going to <https://lenzieacademy.eplatform.co/>

Or

You can read books on your mobile or tablet by downloading the Wheelers ePlatform app from the app store.

Happy Reading



The screenshot shows the Lenzie Academy ePlatform website. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with links for 'Contact', 'Support', and 'Sign in'. Below this is the Lenzie Academy logo, which is a green shield with 'LA' and 'ESTABLISHED 1968' inside. To the right of the logo, the text 'Lenzie Academy' is displayed in a large, green, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text, there is a white navigation bar with buttons for 'LIBRARY', 'BROWSE', 'LOANS', and 'SAVED'. To the right of these buttons is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for books' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Lenzie Academy' is repeated in a large, black, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text 'Access our eLibrary anywhere, anytime, on multiple devices.' is displayed. To the left of this text is a green button with the text 'Start Browsing'. To the right of this text is a link that says 'or get the ePlatform app'. To the right of the link, there are three app store logos: 'Download on the App Store', 'GET IT ON Google Play', and 'Get it from Microsoft'. Below the app store logos, there is a section titled 'Popular Titles' with a 'view more >' link. This section displays six book covers: 'MARIE LU', 'The Great Gatsby', 'LORD OF THE FLIES', '1984', 'THE TRIALS OF APOLLO', and 'The Hunger Games'.



The Den

'The Den' is up and running within the PI room that offers a quiet, tranquil place for pupils to de-stress. It is proving to be very useful for de-escalation after panic attacks and is promoting wellbeing amongst our pupils. Part of the funds were kindly provided by the PTA, the school and Mr and Mrs Elliott. I have attached pictures.



Senior Phase Partnership Programme (SPPP)

Each session Lenzie Academy takes part in East Dunbartonshire's Senior Phase Partnership Programme. The programme offers young people a wide range of vocational options at SCQF levels 4-7 and include: Building Services Engineering, Sports Through Coaching, Legal Studies, Nursing and many more.. These courses are accredited by the SQA and provide young people with the skills, knowledge and experience specific to the option subject and industry sector it represents.

This year Lenzie Academy again has high numbers involved in the programme. This includes:

- 42 students who travel to colleges and Strathclyde University on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to attend their lectures.
- 7 students attending lectures in Applied Anatomy on a Tuesday after school.
- 2 students studying Mechanical Engineering, which involves a more intensive programme and attend college all day on a Monday and Tuesday.
- One student working towards a Foundation Apprenticeship in Creative Digital Media, a programme that requires 2 full days out of school and will involve work placement as part of the course.

Our students have benefitted greatly from the programme over the years, and I am sure our current cohort will reap the benefits of the additional experience they are gaining this session.

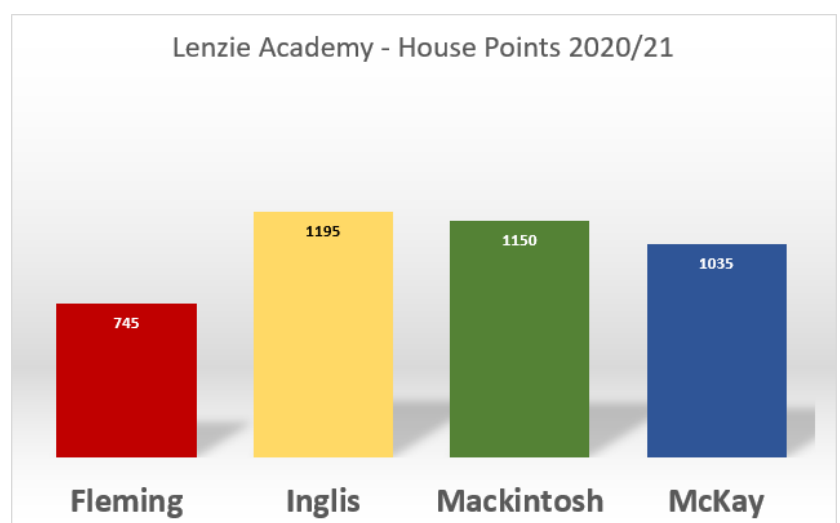
House News

Despite the issues caused by the COVID pandemic we were still able to run a fairly full calendar of house competition this year included the odd socks day for anti-bullying, the PE role models each month, Book Week Quiz, Shoe Box appeal, Christmas cards, various quizzes and the monthly merits.

The highlight of the House competitions this year was the race to the North Pole organised by the PE department. This involved each house virtually racing from Lenzie Academy all the way to the North Pole. It was a very close competition with Inglis just beating out Fleming for the win.

Results of all the competitions contributed to the overall all results in the FOLA Inter House Cup and this year the winners, for the second year in a row, where Inglis. A huge well done to everyone in Inglis house and the house captains Drew Cruickshanks and Scott Keenan.

This year's house competitions will be getting underway very soon so keep an eye on the screens around the school and the school Twitter for information on how you can take part and the House competitions.



LGBT Charter Training

Lenzie Academy are working towards a LGBT Youth Scotland Bronze Award and at the end of last session, we saw number of teachers complete the online modules: LGBTI Terminology, Gender Identity and Prejudice-Based Bullying, Policy & Legislation, LGBTI Inclusive Practice and a follow-up workshop. This all coincided with Pride month in June 2021 when we also held a socially distanced pride picnic, for pupils, outside in the school's quadrangle. This session we have again started up our "Allies Group," and everyone is welcome to come along. Lenzie Academy is an Ally of the LGBTQ community, our group runs at lunchtime on Tuesday in room B2; we want everyone to feel included and safe in our school.



Outdoor Education

The first week of September saw the restart of our Outdoor Education program in partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College. Our S5/S6 took part in paddle boarding at Pinkston Watersports.



S2 ELECTIVES

Our S2 Electives are up and running this session, with pupils enjoying a range of opportunities on a Thursday and Friday. The Elective Programme provides personalisation and choice within the S2 curriculum and enhances core subjects within the Broad General Education.



This session pupils can choose something practical, physical, artistic or intellectual. They can improve their health and wellbeing in Fitness, Dance or Rugby; research and plan different things to eat in Food around the World – and then get the chance to make them - create computer games in Games Design; learn about the media, in another elective, by analysing and creating media content; examine and discuss a range of philosophical questions in PI; carry out experiments in Science in Society; make a picture frame in Practical Woodworking Skills; grow plants from cuttings

and seeds and develop the school's quadrangle in Horticulture; get to grips with the Scottish Legal System by "becoming" a lawyer, witness, court official or a juror in LA Law and in Anatomical Drawing, learn about the structure and function of human and animal skeletons and then draw them in Art.

Feedback, to date, is very positive:

"I am in the Fitness elective and I love it. The electives are a fun time to learn and enjoy yourself."

"I really enjoy Philosophical Inquiry because we talk about questions that are hard to answer, like – How do we know what's real? We get to express our opinions and debate and see other peoples' points of view."

"In Anatomical Drawing you learn all about the body and do fun experiments in Biology like optical illusions. In Art, you draw parts of the body like the skull. This elective is good fun and you can meet so many other pupils."

"Science in Society is pretty good. The teachers are nice and we get to do really cool experiments."

"I am doing the law elective and I think it is amazing! I am learning so much. It's my favourite class."

"I am really enjoying my media elective. It is so interesting to find out about what goes on behind the scenes in movies and seeing how they are put together."



PEF Updates

Acting PT DYW

This role involves establishing and sustaining employer links with the school, working alongside local partners (for example, Guidance staff, Skills Development Scotland) to ensure our careers provision is comprehensive as well as creating interventions with targeted pupils with the potential of not achieving a positive destination after school. This session, as part of my role to create new employer links with the school, the construction company McLaughlin and Harvey will be speaking to some of our pupils virtually about different pathways into construction. There will also be a pilot DYW staff mentoring programme for staff to support some of our targeted pupils reach positive and sustainable destinations. Information on work insight and experience as well as apprenticeship opportunities will reach pupils through morning communications, the school website and school Twitter. Keep an eye out for some of these opportunities and let myself or their Guidance teacher know if they are interested in taking anything forward.



Acting PT PEF Wellbeing

This role involves monitoring and supporting the wellbeing of our SIMD pupils and developing supports to ensure equity for all pupils. This involves working with our Guidance Staff, DHTs and other PEF PTs. This session I am focused on removing financial barriers for pupils and parents in the school and working on ways to raise awareness of and tackle the Cost of the School Day. I have recently issued forms/questionnaires to a number of pupils to gather their views on uniform access in the school and how we can make this more accessible for those who need it. Part of this also involves looking at our school website and developing support resources for parents to help access requests for support from EDC and Lenzie Academy, such as Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance. Keep an eye out on the website for updates to this information. All pupils in the school will recently have completed a Wellbeing Questionnaire, and our new S1 pupils will complete this in school w/b 13/09/21. This allows our Support for Pupils department and Guidance to provide targeted supports for pupils where required. As our extra-curricular activities have started up again, I will also be looking into pupil participation and developing strategies to support the wider achievements of our SIMD pupils.

Acting PT PEF Learning & Teaching

This role involves the implementation of learning and teaching strategies, co-ordinating staff and pupil training and supporting whole school interventions to raise attainment in Lenzie Academy. Due to the social distancing requirements of recent years much of our staff training has required the creation of bespoke online training courses to replace face-to-face group training sessions. In August all staff were – via the new Learning and Teaching Online Hub – introduced to the concept of ‘Making Thinking Visible.’ This is an approach used when modelling examples to pupils in class; it encourages teachers to verbalise the internal thinking routines and strategies that successful pupils engage when tackling classwork, problems and tasks. Beginning in August, Senior Phase pupils have been participating in a classroom based course on ‘Memory and Effective Study Strategies.’ The Learning and Teaching committee are looking to restart the multi-year Metacognition programme in October. The programme was paused during the pandemic. We are also looking at revising and updating LA Launch (an after-school study and homework space) to encourage more pupils to attend.

Acting PT PEF Skills Development

This role involves the implementation of many strategies designed to promote skills development across our broad general curriculum (S1-3). In-line with our recognised Skills for Learning, Life & Work (pictured), we continue to promote a commonality of language and delivery of 'Skills' across the school; working closely with our partners from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) to help our young pupils recognise and discuss their skills development, helping to build their aspirations and vital career management skills.



All new S1 Lenzie Academy pupils should now have registered for the excellent My World of Work, Scotland's career information and advice service. The new homework diaries for our S1 have information on MyWoW and includes a space for pupils to record their login details (page 19-20). MyWoW, as well as being packed full of information on the many pathways beyond school, the service helps pupils to build a skills profile, pick subjects, access the job market and much more! Any pupils who have yet to sign-up can see Mr Ortiz (DT) for help or just head over to the website now to register with their school email address.

This session, as well as My World of Work registration, we will be promoting the continued use of the website, so watch out for further communication on how you can best use the many tools available to you. Further to this, we will be launching the much anticipated 'Skill of the Month' programme. Also, from January 2022, we will be working closely with pupils in S2 and S3, using the subject choice tool and building aspirations at a very important time in their school careers.

Acting PT PEF Attainment

This role involves reviewing the attainment data that is produced for our pupils. Once this list has been created I will review it along with the year heads to see what pupils are off track in a number of different subjects. This list will enable us to implement different targeted interventions to ensure that each of these pupils are well supported. I will then monitor their progress to see what impact these interventions have had. This will be important as it will allow us to support our pupils whose learning might have been impacted by lockdown. I will be also working with departments to review our literacy and numeracy knowledge. This will be done by reviewing and moderating our teaching materials so that they remain in line with other departments. The aim will be to further improve the consistency of our marking and teaching of literacy and numeracy across the school. The long term aim is that this will helped to improve and maintain the high level of literacy and numeracy that our pupils already display and to enable them to better access the curriculum.

Football

After a long period without school football, it is finally back! Great to see such a large turnout of S1 pupils with great talent and hard work. We are looking forward to seeing inter school matches with S2 and I am hopeful that by the turn of the year East Dunbartonshire school matches will be back with some friendly competition! Any S1 pupil who wishes to come along and train should come and speak to Mr McNeil in the PE department. - **Matthew** (S6)



S1 Boys Football

It has been a rough couple of years due to Covid so it is great to announce that the girls' football has started back! We are now into a couple of weeks of our return and the turnout of girls from S1-4 has been amazing, with 20+ girls across all year groups. We welcome all girls - both those with football experience and also those with no experience at all. It is a place for you to make new friends and help boost confidence whilst increasing football skills. Unfortunately, at the moment due to Covid, we are not able to play competitive football against different schools, but hopefully, this will take place again very soon. Once the competitive games start back there will be Scottish School Tournaments which will lead you to finals and friendlies.

The girl's football takes place after school on a Wednesday from 2:40 till 3:40 pm. We meet at the PE changing rooms at the English department, once changed, we head out to the pitch. After a stressful day, it is a great way to keep fit and release those feel-good endorphins that we get from exercising. This helps our wellbeing and mental health which has been an area many people have suffered during Covid. All S1-4 are welcome – please come along and join us, you will not regret it! – **Deanna** (S6)



S1 – S4 Girls Football